

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 2, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: M. Evette Brantley, Co-chair; Lydia Martinez, Co-chair;
Martin McCarthy, Warren Blunt, Leticia Colon, Michelle Lyons,

ALSO PRESENT: Atty. Mark Anastasi; Deborah Thomas-Lions, Adrienne Farrar-Hoel, Angie Staltaro, Joe Gambino, Catherine Santerro, Alanna Kabel, Rose Christy.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. by Council Member Brantley.

79-11: Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development Program Year 38. (Ref. #35-10) Annual Action Plan: ESG Substantial Amendment

Council Member Brantley asked Attorney Anastasi to review the conflict of interest form for the CDBG funding. Attorney Anastasi then gave an overview for all present. Attorney Anastasi stressed the fact that if anyone received benefits made at the meeting it would be a conflict of interest. Ms. McDermott expanded on possible scenarios for the group.

PY 37

Ms. McDermott then reviewed some changes that affect the PY37 Substantial Amendment. She then stated that she would be happy to answer any questions about the changes before further discussion. Ms. Brantley stated that most of the recommendations that had been made regarding the allocations were very similar to the continuum of care recommendation and that this was a new committee who were allowed to review the Citizens Union allocations and make their recommendations. She started that Councilman Holloway has often stated that the City Council does not follow Citizens Union recommendations and that it was not true as they tried to stick to their recommendations as well and that as far as the continuum care they were very close to their allocations and that they would like to ask the committee to look at the recommendations and support what was recommended.

Ms. McDermott directed everyone's attention to the first column, second allocation, where it listed allocation requests and the citizens union. Council Member Brantley said

that they had basically gone with the recommendations of the Citizens Union. Ms. Brantley recommended that the allocation should be made:

ABCD Rapid Rehousing Assistance	\$41,000
United Way	\$17,194
Bridgeport Tabernacle, Community Development Initiative	\$12,000

She stated that these were the only changes that the committee made.

Ms. McDermott reviewed the new application processes which they had used to track more applicants. The discussion then moved to the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG). She stated that in January the HUD had instituted new regulations for the ESG, which governed the allocation of funds. She stated that food pantries now fall under Street Outreach and that the office would have to actively work with the pantries to ensure they were actively pursuing their clients. She stated that they could not fund more than 40% of the allocation to that area. The second area that HUD has created is homeless prevention and rapid rehousing and they had been given a minimum funding level of \$104,236. The third area that had been created was homeless management information systems and that this was now a mandated software application that all agencies and funds have to use. She stated that most of the food pantries did not use this software at the moment and money put into the funding would allow for construction of the requires systems. The final category was the administration category which are activates associated with the programs which is capped at 7.5% of the grant award.

They then proceeded to list several concerns that the HUD had had regarding the funding of the programs in the prior years. Council Member Martinez then reviewed the co-chairs recommendations for funding.

Family in Transition Homeless Shelter:	\$30,000
Frank Habansky Food Pantry:	\$3,000
ABCD St. Steven's Food Pantry:	\$9,000
Healing Tree Kings Pantry:	\$18,000
Bridgeport Tabernacle: [Inaudible cross talk]	\$4,000 [\$10,000]
Recovery Network:	\$4,000
United Congregational Church:	\$2,000 plus \$2,000 reprogram
City of Bridgeport Veteran's Food Pantry:	\$5,000
North End Community Console:	\$1,578
ABCD Rental Assistance:	\$72,468; reprogramming - \$6,532
Energy Assistance:	\$65,000
St. John's Family Center:	\$9,000
Homeless Management Information Systems	
Connecticut Coalition to end Homelessness:	\$10,000

Administrative Activities HESG Administration: \$19,544

Ms. McDermott said that the city had identified a small amount of funding in the amount of \$6,532, which had not been spent in prior years and had been instructed by HUD to move the money forward and she reviewed the amount of money that was available for the fiscal year. Further discussion on the funds ensued.

Ms. McDermott then reviewed an updated list of the funds.

Alpha Community Services:	\$29,000
Family in Transition Homeless Shelter:	\$30,000
Frank Habansky Food Pantry:	\$7,000
ABCD St. Steven's Food Pantry:	\$8,000
Healing Tree Kings Pantry:	\$16,000
Bridgeport Tabernacle:	\$10,000
Recovery Network:	\$4,000
Kingston Street: (Ineligible)	\$0
United Congregational Church:	\$2,000; reprogramming \$2,000
City of Bridgeport Veteran's Food Pantry:	\$6,000
North End Community Console:	\$1,578
ABCD Rental Assistance:	\$72,468; reprogramming - \$6,532
Energy Assistance:	\$64,000
St. John's Family Center:	\$9,000
United Way:	\$0
Homeless Management Information Systems	
Connecticut Coalition to end Homelessness:	\$10,000
Administrative Activities HESG Administration:	\$19,544
Connecticut Coalition:	\$10,000
Community Development and Administration:	\$19,544

Total: \$260,590 in PY38 and \$6,532 for reprogramming.

The discussion then moved to funding for HOPWA. Ms. McDermott then reviewed the total funding available for both the upcoming program year and the reprogramming funding.

Council Member Brantley said that that an additional \$75,542 were given and the following recommendations

Mid Fairfield County AIDS program	\$156,541
-----------------------------------	-----------

Chemical Abuse Agency	\$28,715, plus \$71,285
Refocus Ministries	\$85,359
St. Luke Life Works	\$183,815
Prospect House Recovery Network	\$100,000
Prospect House Administration	\$24,880

Council Member McCarthy asked if the City was giving the bare minimum to the non-Bridgeport agencies. Ms. McDermott said that when the funds are distributed, the receiving agencies are requested to provide a service level, which is taken into consideration. Discussion followed.

There was a consensus among the commission that these numbers were fine. The discussion then moved to the Home Investment Partnership Program. It was stated that the co-chairs felt that they should maintain the recommendation from the Citizens Union. Ms. McDermott then reviewed the goals and purposes for the Home Investment Partnership Program as well as its mechanics for the committee. Council Member McCarthy asked if the funds for this had to remain within the category or if they could be moved as well as how the program would handle luxury housing. Ms. McDermott then reviewed the current projects being done by the program for the commission. Council Member Lyons said that she would like to see the application so that she could have more information about what she was voting on.

The discussion then moved to the CDBG. Ms. McDermott provided images of two formally dilapidated houses on Clinton Ave. to show what the funding could do. She then presented images of the Elias Howe building as an example of an upcoming project. She then reviewed information on Clinton Ave. and other upcoming projects for the committee. Ms. McDermott said that there was \$2,772,469 to allocate and the city had found an additional \$682,684 in reprogramming. She then reviewed how much the commission could allocate to each area. She pointed out that the upper-east side block watch had an ineligible application as well as one request to withdraw an application: The Public Facilities request for Greater Bridgeport Enterprises as well as Public Services. Discussion followed about the establishment of a mattress recycling company.

RECESS

Council Member Brantley announced a recess at 7:35 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

53-11: Consolidated Plan 2008-2013 PY 38 Annual Action Plan Community Development Block Grant Program Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant Program HOME Investment Partnership Program

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program

Council Member Brantley then reviewed the recommendations for the various organizations along with the planned funding for the item being discussed. Council Member Blunt disagreed with the proposed amounts. Discussion followed regarding the proposed allocations.

RECESS

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO RECESS ON THE ITEM UNTIL MAY 3, 2012 FOLLOWING ANOTHER BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING IN ORDER TO CONCLUDE THE FUNDING DECISIONS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting recessed at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services